

THEME: Advance of Frontier

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
(NATIONAL HISTORIC INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Columbiana
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Beginning Point				
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Beginning Point of the First Public Land Survey				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: On State Route 39, 2 miles east of East Liverpool				
CITY OR TOWN: East Liverpool			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 18th & 25th	
STATE: Ohio		CODE: 39	COUNTY: Columbiana	CODE: 029
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition:		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Marker</u>				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: The East Liverpool Historical Society				
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 60				
CITY OR TOWN: East Liverpool			STATE: Ohio	CODE: 39
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds				
STREET AND NUMBER: Columbiana County Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Lisbon			STATE: Ohio	CODE: 39
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exact location of the original survey conducted as the first rectangular survey in America is not known. However, because of the construction of the present dam in East Liverpool this general tract is covered with water. The Beginning Point of the First Public Land Survey is therefore represented by the location of a granite marker with a six foot square area located on State Route 39, 2 miles east of East Liverpool, Ohio. An inscription on this marker gives testimony to the abstract nature of the landmark, it reads, "1,112 feet south of this spot was the point of beginning for surveying the Public Lands of the United States."

The East Liverpool Historical Society maintains the property in very good condition.

Boundary Information and Justification

The original survey of the Beginning Point was located in both Pennsylvania and Ohio. That portion of the landmark in Ohio is located in Columbiana County while the Pennsylvania section is in Beaver County. The County records describe the boundaries as follows:

Situated in the State of Ohio, County of Columbiana and City of East Liverpool and being a part of Section 36, Liverpool Township 6, Range 1 and being more fully described by beginning at the intersection of the north line of the C. & P. R.R. Company right-of-way with the east line of said section and running thence with said line North a distance of 44.0 feet to grantor's north line; thence with said line in a southwesterly direction, parallel with the north line of the C. & P. R.R. Company right-of-way, a distance of 8.0 feet to a point; thence South a distance of 44.0 feet to the north line of the C. & P. R.R. Company right-of-way; thence with said line in a northeasterly direction a distance of 8.0 feet to the place of beginning, containing in area 0.008 Acres, more or less, but subject to all legal highways.

That part of the landmark located in Pennsylvania is described as:

Beginning at a point on the State Line between the States of Ohio and Pennsylvania, said point also being located on the north boundary of the right-of-way line of the Pennsylvania Railroad (formerly The Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad Company); thence N. 65° 06' 50" E. one hundred (100) feet along said right-of-way to a point; thence N. 0° 14' 10" W. parallel to the Ohio-Pennsylvania State Line to the southerly right-of-way line of Pennsylvania State Road No. 66 (Beaver County Route 243, Section 7) as established by Deed of Release and Quitclaim from this Grantor to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania dated October 15, 1958; thence S. 65° 06' 50" W. along southerly right-of-way

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

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Ohio	
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7. Description: (1) Beginning Point of the First Public Land Survey

of the said Road No. 68 to the Ohio-Pennsylvania State Line for a distance of one hundred (100) feet, more or less; and thence S. 0° 14' 10" E. along said State Line to the point of beginning, but subject to all easements, rights-of-way, and all things of record.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian:☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

August 9, 1786

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☒ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☒ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the place where the rectangular land survey system for the survey of public lands was inaugurated in 1785, the Beginning Point, First Land Survey is of great historical importance. Accurate and convenient, the system has been utilized since that time in surveying the millions of acres of land making up the 31 states created out of the public domain.

It is tied inextricably to the advance of the frontier and opening of the vast expanses of public land to settlement. Its indelible imprint on the American landscape is noticeable in the angular fields and section line market roads. As the first mathematically designed system and nationally conducted cadastral survey system in any modern country, it is an object of study by public officials of foreign countries as a basis for land reform.

History

The use of the rectangular survey system resulted from the Ordinance "for ascertaining the mode of disposing of lands in the western territory," enacted on May 20, 1785. The Ordinance provided that all public lands were to be divided into townships six miles square and that they were to be laid out both east and west and north and south of base lines (based on meridians of longitude and parallels of latitude) crossing one another at right angles. It also stipulated that each township was to be subdivided into 36 square mile sections, and that these, in turn, might be subdivided into minor rectangles of any desired size.

The Ordinance was exactly three months old on the day that the Beginning Point of the public land survey was established. Boundary commissioners representing Virginia and Pennsylvania, having set forth from the southwest corner of Pennsylvania in early June 1785, surveyed a line due north to the Ohio River, where they arrived on August 20. Junction with the south bank of the Ohio completed the marking of the boundary between Virginia and Pennsylvania; but the commissioners sent a field crew across the river to "set a stake on the flat North Side of the River." It was at this point that the public land survey was to begin.

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Beginning Point of the First Public Land Survey

The Ordinance specified that the Geographer to the United States, Thomas Hutchins, would personally supervise the running of the first east-west base line; and on September 30, 1785, Hutchins began the Survey. As its beginning point he used the stake set by the Virginia-Pennsylvania boundary commissioners.

Hutchins proceeded westward until October 8 when, having surveyed less than four miles of the line, he suspended operations because of the threat of Indian hostility. Surveying began again on August 9, 1786. When Hutchins reached a point on the base line six miles from the Pennsylvania boundary, he directed a subordinate to survey a line south to the Ohio River so as to complete the boundaries of the first township. At the four following six mile intervals, he directed subordinates to survey lines from the base line south to the Ohio, thus establishing six-mile strips of territory, which are termed ranges. He also instructed these men to survey east-west lines at six-mile intervals from the base line, thus setting the boundaries of the six-mile square townships within the ranges. When the survey was abandoned on September 18, 1786, the base line (which is now termed the Geographers Line) had been surveyed for about 45 miles, and the survey of the four ranges had been completed and that of the fifth had begun.

Hutchins' subordinates resumed the survey in early April, 1787, and completed surveying the first seven ranges in early July. Hutchins prepared a general plan covering all of the Seven Ranges; and on July 26, 1788, he submitted the plan and the concluding notes and plats to the Board of Treasury. Thus the first phase of U.S. public land surveying came to an end.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Concise Dictionary of American History, (New York, 1962)

Gumm, Clark L., "The Foundation of Land Records," Public Lands,  
(vol. 7, no. 2; October 1957.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	Degrees Minutes Seconds		UTM			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

17.540640.4496960

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Ohio	39	Columbiana	
Pennsylvania	42	Beaver	007
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian, Landmark Reveiw Task Force	
ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service	DATE: 12/27/74
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, NW	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C. 20240
	CODE: 11

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

17/4498980

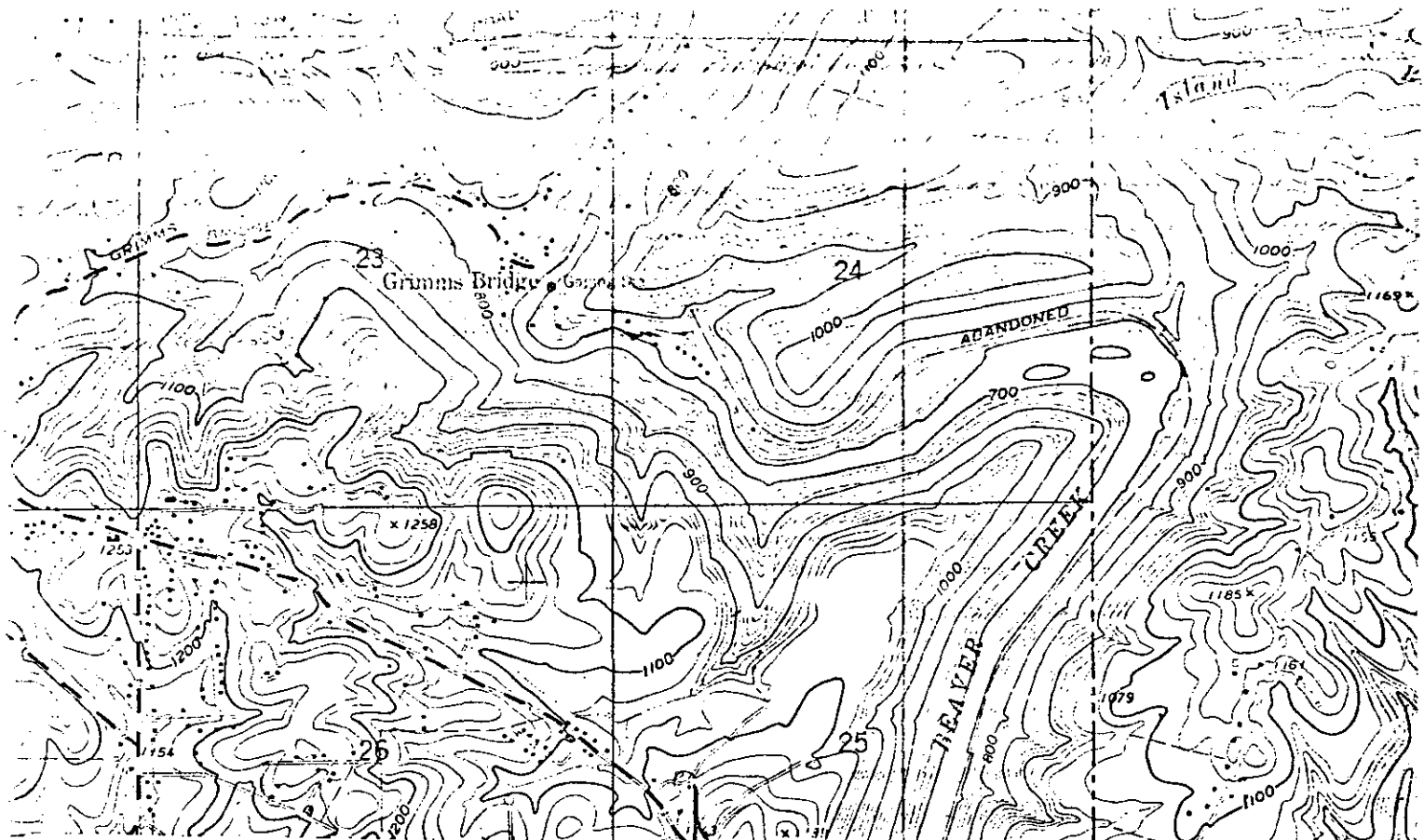
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

51	
Ohio	
COUNTY	
Columbiana	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
The Beginning Point			
COMMON:			
LAND OR HISTORIC: The Beginning Point of the First Public Land Survey			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
State Route 39, 2 miles east of East Liverpool, Ohio			
CITY OR TOWN:			
East Liverpool			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Ohio	39	Columbiana	029
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Map: East Liverpool, Ohio North Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1960 (Photorevised 1971)			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



The Beginning Point of the First  
Public Land Survey  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Map  
East Liverpool, Ohio North  
Quadrangle  
UTM  
17.540640.4496960

